

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

#### **Recreational Red Snapper Season Closure**

The recreational season for the harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters has previously been set to open at 12:01 a.m., June 1, 2010. The season is hereby established to close effective 12:01 a.m. on July 24, 2010. The secretary has been informed that the recreational season for red snapper in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana will close at 12:01 a.m. on July 24, 2010, and will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., June 1, 2011, when the season is scheduled to re-open in both state and federal waters.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and the authority given to the Secretary of the Department by the Commission in its resolution of January 7, 2010 to modify opening and closing dates of the 2010 recreational red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the Regional Director of NOAA Fisheries that the season dates have been modified in adjacent Federal waters, and that NOAA Fisheries requests that the season be modified in Louisiana state waters, the secretary hereby declares:

The recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close at 12:01 a.m. on July 24, 2010, and remain closed until 12:01 a.m., June 1, 2011. Effective with this closure, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess red snapper whether within or without Louisiana waters.

The secretary has been notified by NOAA Fisheries that the recreational red snapper season in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will close at 12:01 a.m. on July 24, 2010, and the season will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., June 1, 2011. Having compatible season regulations in State waters is necessary to provide effective rules and efficient enforcement for the fishery, to prevent overfishing of this species in the long term.

Robert J. Barham  
Secretary